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STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC  
SAFETY  
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY  
DOCKET NO.

In the Matter of the Suspension )	
or Revocation of the License of )	Administrative Action
)	
JAMES J. LAVALLA, D.D.S. )	REINSTATEMENT ORDER
)	
To Practice Dentistry in the )	
State of New Jersey )	
)	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Dentistry ("Board") upon the filing of a Petition for License Reinstatement by Robert W. Savage, Esq., counsel for James J. Lavalla, D.D.S. The Petition was supported by documents attesting to the rehabilitation of Dr. Lavalla with respect to his drug addiction including, but not limited to, reports from Ray Newstadt, M.S., New Start Associates, and Dr. Frederick Rotgers, of the N.J.D.A. Chemical Dependency Program (C.D.P.). The Board also considered the psychological evaluation submitted by Frank J. Dyer, Ph.D., the Board appointed consultant, concerning an examination conducted on November 5, 1993. Dr. Lavalla personally appeared before the Board with counsel on December 1, 1993, to request reinstatement of his license to

practice dentistry. Dr. Lavalla's license to practice dentistry had been revoked by a prior Board Decision and Final Order entered on February 5, 1992.

The Board thoroughly reviewed the entire record before it and after diligent deliberations determined to enter the Reinstatement Order as follows:

IT IS, THEREFORE, ON THIS 21<sup>st</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 1993,

ORDERED THAT:

1. The license of James J. Lavalla, D.D.S. (respondent) to practice dentistry in the State of New Jersey shall be reinstated effective on the entry date of the within Reinstatement Order, expressly contingent upon continuing compliance with the following terms and conditions:

(a) Respondent may practice dentistry only as the employee and under the direct supervision of a New Jersey licensed dentist. Direct supervision shall mean that the supervising dentist shall be physically present at all times while respondent is performing dental procedures. Respondent shall inform the employing dentist of his prior drug addiction problem and he shall provide to the employing dentist a copy of the within Order. Respondent shall provide to the Board the name and address of the employing dentist, and he shall cause the employing dentist to submit quarterly reports to the Board confirming that he or she has been advised of his prior addiction problems and also evaluating his competence and performance. Respondent shall not be permitted to own or operate any dental

facility.

(b) Respondent shall have his urine monitored under the supervision of the C.D.P. on a random, unannounced basis, once weekly. The urine monitoring shall be conducted with direct witnessing of the taking of the samples either from a volunteer or drug clinic staff as arranged and designated by the C.D.P. The initial drug screen shall utilize the EMIT technique and all confirming tests and/or secondary tests will be performed by gas chromatography/mass spectrometry (G.C./M.S.). The testing procedure shall include a forensic chain of custody protocol to ensure sample integrity and to provide documentation in the event of a legal challenge. The C.D.P. shall be responsible to assure that all urine samples are handled by a laboratory competent to provide these services.

All test results shall be provided in the first instance directly to the C.D.P., and any positive result shall be reported immediately by the C.D.P. to Agnes Clarke, Executive Director of the Board, or her designee in the event she is unavailable. The Board also will retain sole discretion to modify the manner of testing in the event technical developments or individual requirements indicate that a different methodology or approach is required in order to guarantee the accuracy and reliability of the testing.

Any failure by the respondent to submit or provide a urine sample within twenty-four (24) hours of a request will be deemed to be equivalent to a confirmed positive urine test. In the

event that respondent is unable to appear for a scheduled urine test or provide a urine sample due to illness or other impossibility, consent to waive that day's test must be secured from Dr. Frederick Rotgers or Dr. Barbara McCrady of the C.D.P. Neither the volunteer nor drug clinic staff shall be authorized to consent to waive a urine test. In addition, respondent must provide the C.D.P. with written substantiation of his inability to appear within two (2) days, e.g., a physician's report attesting that the respondent was so ill that he was unable to provide the urine sample or appear for the test. "Impossibility" as employed in this provision shall mean an obstacle beyond the control of the respondent that is so insurmountable or that makes appearance for the test or provision of the urine sample so infeasible that a reasonable person would not withhold consent to waive the test on that day. The C.D.P. shall advise the Board of every instance where a request has been made to waive a urine test together with the Program's determination in each such case.

The Board may in its sole discretion modify the frequency of testing or method of reporting during the monitoring period.

(c) Respondent shall attend support groups including the impaired professionals group and AA/NA at a frequency as recommended by the C.D.P. Respondent shall provide evidence of attendance at such groups directly to the C.D.P. on a form or in a manner as required by the Program. The C.D.P. shall advise the Board immediately in the event it receives information that respondent has discontinued attendance at any of the support

groups.

(d) The C.D.P. shall provide quarterly reports to the Board in regard to its monitoring of respondent's program as outlined herein including, but not limited to, the urine testing and the attendance at support groups. The Program shall attach to its quarterly reports any and all appropriate reports and/or documentation concerning any of the monitoring aspects of the within program.

(e) Respondent shall attend therapy as recommended by his counselor at the New Start Associates out-patient treatment program. Respondent shall cause his therapist to provide quarterly reports directly to the Board with respect to his attendance and progress in therapy.

(f) Respondent shall not prescribe controlled danerous substances nor shall he possess such substances except pursuant to a bona fide prescription written by a physician or dentist for good medical or dental cause. Respondent shall cause any physician or dentist who prescribes medication which is a controlled dangerous substance to provide a written report to the Board together with patient records indicating the need for such medication. Such report shall be provided to the Board no later than seven (7) days subsequent to the prescription in order to avoid confusion which may be caused by a confirmed positive urine test as a result of such medication.


(g) Respondent shall provide appropriate releases to any and all parties who are participating in the monitoring

program as outlined herein as may be required in order that all reports, records, and other pertinent information may be provided to the Board in a timely manner.

2. All costs associated with the monitoring program as outlined herein shall be paid directly by the respondent.

3. It is expressly understood and agreed that continued licensure with restrictions as ordered herein is contingent upon strict compliance with all of the aforementioned conditions. Upon the Board's receipt of any information indicting that any term of the within Order has been violated in any manner whatsoever, including, but not limited to, a verbal report of a confirmed positive urine or any other evidence that respondent has used an addictive substance, a hearing shall be held on short notice before the Board or before its representative authorized to act on its behalf. The proofs at such a hearing shall be limited to evidence of the particular violation at issue. Any confirmed positive urine test shall be presumed valid, and respondent shall bear the burden of demonstrating its invalidity.

4. Respondent shall apply for modification of the terms and conditions of the within Order no sooner than one (1) year from the entry date herein.

  
STEPHEN CANDIO, D.D.S.  
VICE PRESIDENT  
STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY